

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3361

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2839

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI GR TU

SUBJ: COURTESY CALL ON DEMETRIOS, PATRIARCH OF GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ISTANBUL

1. DURING MY COURTESY CALL ON THE PATRIARCH OF THE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH AT ISTANBUL, HE ASKED ME TO EXTEND TO
PRESIDENT NIXON HIS PERSONAL BEST WISHES AND WARM APPRECI-
ATION OF HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE. I REMARKED
THAT THE PRESIDENT DESERVED HIGH PRAISE INDEED FOR HIS
TIRELESS AND SUCCESSFUL DEDICATION TO WORLD PEACE.

2. VISIT OTHERWISE INVOLVED FRIENDLY EXCHANGE IN WHICH I
EXPRESSED MY DEEP ADMIRATION FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE GREEK
CHURCH OVER THE CENTURIES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HIGHER
INTERESTS OF THE GREEK PEOPLE AND NATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, I
TOLD HIM HOW MUCH I HAD APPRECIATED MY EARLIER VISITS WITH THE
PATRIARCH IN JERUSALEM AS WELL AS THE 52 BISHOPS IN GREECE
OCCUPYING SEATS IN EACH OF THE GREEK NOMARCHIES. THE PATR-
IARCH UNDERScoreD HIS LOYALTY TO GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY AND
TURKEY#(CONGEN INFORMS ME PATRIARCH'S RESIDENCE BUGGED),
AND HIS EARNEST HOPE FOR PEACE ON EARTH. I TOOK OCCASION
TO EXPRESS VIEW THAT U.S. FIRMLY SUPPORTED ENDURING PEACE
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AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. I ADDED SUCH

FRIENDSHIP CONSTITUTED A HIGH PRIORITY IN OUR NATIONAL
INTERESTS. TASCA

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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NNN

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